

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-12 are pending.

Claims 13-18 are withdrawn.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required a four way restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. The groups as outlined by the Examiner are:

- I. Claims 1-8, drawn to the reaction product of a modified vegetable oil and vinyl monomer.
- II. Claims 9-12, drawn to process for forming a functionalized vegetable oil derivative.
- III. Claims 13-17 drawn to a latex polymer.
- IV. Claim 18, drawn to a coating composition.

In response to the Examiner's four-way restriction requirement, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-8, drawn to the reaction product of a modified vegetable oil and a vinyl monomer. Applicants traverse this restriction requirement with respect to Groups I and II.

Claims 1-8 and claims 9-12 are related as a composition and a process for forming the composition. Claims 1-8 are directed to a composition comprising the reaction product of an unsaturated vegetable oil that has been modified by the addition of an enophile or dienophile having an acid, ester or anhydride functionality; and a functional vinyl monomer. Similarly, claims 9 – 12 are directed to a process for forming the composition of claims 1-8. Once the examiner searches for the composition of claim 1, the search is essentially completed for claims 9-12, the process for forming the composition of claims 1-8. Because these inventions are related and would not require much additional searching, Applicants request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter of Groups II –IV.

Election Requirement

The Examiner also requests that a single species be elected for prosecution on the merits.

Applicants elect for initial prosecution:

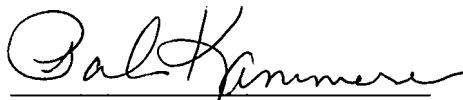
a dienophile having an anhydride functionality,
a soybean vegetable oil, and
a hydroxyl vinyl monomer.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 read on a dienophile having an anhydride functionality, a soybean vegetable oil and a hydroxyl vinyl monomer. Claims 4 and 5 provide alternative vegetable oils other than soybean oil.

In Group II, claims 9-12 read on a dienophile having an anhydride functionality, a soybean vegetable oil and a hydroxyl vinyl monomer.

This paper is filed timely. No fee is believed to be due; however, should any fees be required for any reason relating to this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Howrey LLP Deposit Account No. 08-3038/13002.0071.NPUS01.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 28, 2007